



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: November 15 – November 19, 2021

Trait of the Month: Fairness

The mission of The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is to develop literate students who are innovative, well-rounded lifelong learners and critical thinkers. We aim to foster caring global citizens who maintain inclusive and respectful interactions with others.

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WEEK TWO SCHEDULE – Block 3 AM, Block 4 PM AWARDS WEEK

Nov. 15	PA Day - No Classes Leadership Team Meeting (2:40-4:00 pm) School Council (7:00-8:30 pm) Agenda
Nov. 16	
Nov. 17	Waterloo Math Contests (CSIMC)
Nov. 18	Photo Day IB Application Process (6:00-7:00 pm)
Nov. 19	Photo Day

Upcoming:

WEEK ONE SCHEDULE – Block 1 AM, Block 2 PM

Nov. 22	
Nov. 23	
Nov. 24	
Nov. 25	Grades 9, 10 and 12 - Asynchronous Learning (No classes) OSSLT - Grade 11s Grade 8 Virtual Open House Information (7:00-8:00pm)
Nov. 26	

Message from the Principal

What a nail biter of a game on Monday night at Richmond Green! It was a devastating loss after a hard fought battle for our Senior boys soccer players. I was proud of each of them for the determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the game despite many challenging plays against them.

This week we have been celebrating our Award Winners from last school year. It has been great each morning to recognize and celebrate so many accomplishments over the past school year. Yesterday we also unveiled the Honour Roll wall just east of the main lobby towards Guidance. It was great to see all the excited students checking it out and looking for their names. The academic accomplishments of our students are amazing with over 800 students represented across all four grades. Moving forward, we will be updating the Honour Roll wall at the beginning of each semester for the previous semester.

Yesterday we honoured the veterans and alumni of Aurora High School (now Dr. G. W. Williams S. S.) for their commitment to war efforts and bringing our freedoms. We also took some time to reflect upon the discrimination experienced by Indigenous and black Canadians when contributing to the war effort. The history department, with contributions from vocal students, our Autism class students and Michael W. as emcee, once again pulled together a thoughtful presentation for all.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

Weekly Highlights

Sr. Boys Soccer

On Monday, your senior boys soccer team played their semi final match-up against Central YRAA Champion Richmond Green Secondary School. With home field advantage and a big crowd of spectators on their side, Richmond Green gained momentum, sending an onslaught of shots at our keeper, Lucas Gaspari, whose outstanding saves kept us in the game. Unfortunately, one got past him giving our opponents a 1 - nil lead going into the 2nd half. Knowing we had plenty of game time left, your Wildcats did not give up and with a beauty bender corner kick, from Captain, Arta Barzegar, tied the score early in the 2nd half. After 80 minutes of regulation time, an additional 20 minutes of overtime began. The assault of illegal tackles, face slaps and throat punches to our players, seemingly overlooked by the referee, lead to a number of injuries to your Wildcats. With many of our starting players on the bench due to injuries, we had to get creative. Another screamer from Captain Arta Barzegar clearly landed in our opponents net only to be recalled by the referee as a no-goal. Due to questionable refereeing, and not a lack of effort, the Wildcats were officially eliminated from playoff contention in an ill-tempered 2 to 1 loss in overtime. Your Wildcats are not a team who gives up easily. We were underdogs going into the playoffs, knocked out a number of opponents who underestimated us and as a result, have put the Williams Soccer team back on the map. The whole school community is proud of everything our boys have accomplished.

In the post-game interview with coach Morrison, she said "The final score did not reflect our performance and we did not deserve to lose that game. However, I am proud of the way we went down. We will be back next year with a vengeance, hungry and ready to put the Wildcats back where we belong - at the top!"

Thank you to Ms. Morrison, Ms. Isber and Mr. Buono for their commitment to the team this season!!

Winter Sports

Now that the fall season has officially ended, the Williams Athletic department is looking ahead to the winter season.

We are pleased to announce that, after consultation with York Region Public Health and with increased health and safety requirements, indoor sports may now resume for students who are fully vaccinated. At our school, this means that volleyball, basketball, hockey, and curling may resume.

For any indoor high-contact sports offered as an extra-curricular activity, all participating students must provide proof of full vaccination.

For volleyball and basketball participating **students** will be required to attest that they have been fully vaccinated utilizing the current YRDSB Attestation portal under the drop down heading of '**Secondary Students for Inter-school Sports**'. (<https://visitorattestation.yrdsb.ca/>).

For hockey, curling and Nordic skiing, students will be required to show their proof of double vaccination each time they attend the facility for practices and games\events.

We know the importance of extra-curricular activities and the positive effect they can have on students. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we look to resume these activities in a manner that is safe for all participants.

More details will be provided for students via the announcements as tryouts can't occur until vaccination status is verified.

Photo Day

School photos will take place on November 18 & 19. Students will be brought down by class to ensure physical distancing and cohorting for all. Student ID cards will be printed on the spot for all students having their photo taken. For the most part, Grade 9 and 10 classes will be done on November 18 and Grade 11 and 12 classes will be done on November 19. There will be some variations as we work to accommodate all classes. The exact schedule will be given to teachers.

Arrangements can be made for remote learners (on-line) to come in after school (between 2:45-4:00) to have their photos done as well. Please contact the main office to make an appointment for a remote learner.

We plan to publish a yearbook again this year and would like to get as many photos as possible.

Graduation Gowns and Caps

Attention grade 12 students who will be graduating in June 2022. Graduation Gowns and Caps are available for purchase in SchooCash Online until **November 9, 2021**. Graduation photo sessions are scheduled to begin on November 29, 2021. Gowns are needed to have your photo taken. Please let us know if we can assist in any way to ensure that one is ordered to have in place for photos at the end of November.

Literacy Update

We now know that Williams students will be writing the OSSLT on Thursday November 25, 2021.

That day will be an asynchronous learning day for Grade 9, 10 and 12 students that are not writing the OSSLT (no regular classes, students work on course work from home). Community class students will continue to follow their regular schedule and will attend school on November 25th.

More details will follow closer to the date.

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter (November 2021 Edition)

YRDSB Mental Health services are provided by YRDSB psychology and social work personnel. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.

Attendance

Parents are reminded to use the drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca to report absences. All absences must be justified with a reason.

If students are required to self-isolate due to a COVID exposure or positive test result, please indicate that in your email as this is coded differently and is not reflected on the attendance tally reported on the student report card. Additionally, your child's Vice Principal (Ms. Conlon A-Li, Mr. Brar Lo-Z) will then connect with you to arrange learning during their absence.

COVID Self-Screening (updated October 15)

Effective **Monday, October 18, 2021** York Region Public Health will require students, parents and guardians to use the provincial [Ontario COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#), **prior to entering the school daily**.

Screening and testing help control the spread of COVID-19. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more of COVID-19 symptoms.

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 as identified in the screening tool (not related to a COVID-19 vaccine), must not enter any school and follow the guidance in the screening tool, which may include seeking appropriate medical attention as required, and/or getting tested for COVID-19.

Where possible, students must maintain a physical distance at all times, as they enter, move through and exit the building.

Daily Announcements

Our announcements are posted to the school website each day for students and parents to access under the [News & Events](#) heading. We will have a text version of all announcements that will be updated each day. We hope that this addition will help our school community (and especially our remote learners that aren't here to hear the announcements each day) to stay in touch with what is happening at the school.

Guidance

Post-Secondary Financial Presentation

- Grade 12's be sure to check out our post-secondary financial video presentation found on the Guidance Google Classroom.

Applying to University and/or College

- University applicants' PIN number to apply to schools have been sent to student GAPPs email accounts. Please see the "How to Apply" section in the Guidance Google Classroom for more information on the application process.
- College applicants do not need a PIN number to apply but will need to know their Ontario Education Number (OEN) which can be found on a report card.

Community Services

- Changes have been made to the Community Involvement Graduation Requirements. Information on requirements and eligibility can be found on the Guidance Classroom.

Do you need a computer?

As part of a partnership between YRDSB and Renewed Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with increased access to information and communications technology (ICT), skill development and learning opportunities, in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

RCT is offering families with children enrolled in our Board the opportunity to purchase quality refurbished computers at a reduced cost. For more information please visit the [flyer](#) and [letter to families](#).

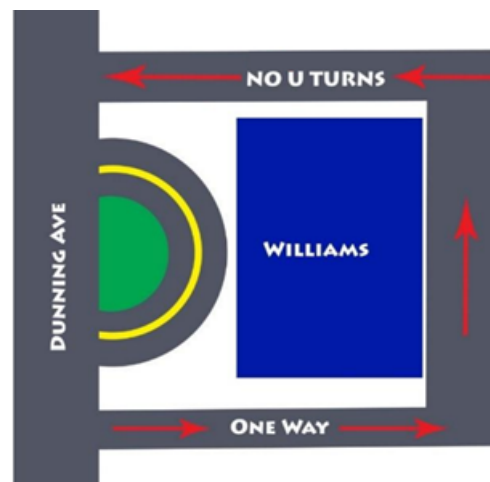
Safety and Community Notices

Driveway and Parking Lot

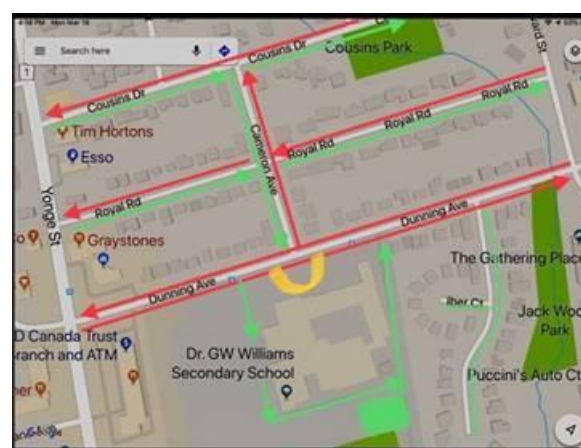
At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:15 to 2:40. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 2:40, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, we ask that you make arrangements to meet your students at the nearest exit from their classroom (in one of the parking lots) or off school property (down the street, around the corner, etc.). Please see the maps below to support your efforts.



There is one-way traffic in our front driveway loop. In the front driveway loop, drop off/pick up students on the right side; drive through only on the left side. For safety reasons, do not drop off/pick up students on the left side.



If you **MUST** come to the school, enter via the West lot (beside the track, closest to Yonge Street) and drive around the school to meet your child. **DO NOT** block the driveway waiting. There is one-way traffic in the west entrance and on the south (back) side of the school. **It is two-way traffic on the east side of the school, however, during the end of the day pick-up time you will notice the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot.** This makes a significant positive impact on safety for all and makes it easier and less stressful for everyone. When you are able to enter the east lot, do not make U-turns anywhere in the east parking lot from Dunning Avenue to the south parking lot. Making a U-turn in this area creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians and other vehicles. If you need to turn around, please pull into a parking spot and carefully back out.



Please note that Dunning Avenue is a **no stopping zone**. This is noted by the signage along the street and on the map above you can see the red arrows on both sides of the street.

School Calendar for 2021-2022

- Winter Break - Monday, December 20, 2021 to Friday, December 31, 2021 inclusive
- Family Day - Monday, February 21, 2022
- Mid-Winter Break - Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022 inclusive
- Good Friday - Friday April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday - Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day - Monday, May 23, 2022

PA Days for Williams (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- Monday November 15, 2021
- Friday February 4, 2022
- Friday May 6, 2022
- Thursday June 30, 2022

School Council Meetings for 2020-2021

- [Monday November 15, 2021](#)
- Monday January 17, 2022



- Monday March 21, 2022
- Monday May 16, 2022